

REUNION ...

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man leaving for Louisiana and John heading for California. John was 11 years old when he and the other children were made wards of the State. He was 16 when he ran away to California.

Varied Treatment

He has vivid recollection of both the Duncan farm and Mrs. Splinter's home where he stayed before going to the farm. He remembers them because of their strong contrast.

"She was nothing but goodness," Gardner reflected in reference to Mrs. Splinter. "The home atmosphere, the church services, the friendship, the love and kindness that were given and given free ... I acquired something there which I always loved."

Life on the Duncan farm, on the other hand, was austere. The boys had to do a full man's job in addition to going to school. They were ruled with stern discipline and sometimes beaten and sent to bed without their meals.

Gardner worked as a cook in Ventura till 1941. There in 1938 he met Beth, who is now his wife.

"He was always so clean look-

ing and so nice in appearance," Mrs. Gardner recalled. "He was quiet and serious and he liked my family which meant a lot."

Served With Patton

Despite an attack of polio from which he recovered, Gardner entered the army, participating among some of the grimmest fighting of World War II. He was an artillery man handling a 155 mm cannon with Patton's Third Army, a fact of which he is quite proud.

Soon after the war, he and his wife settled in Torrance, where Gardner went to work for National Supply.

"I think a lot of National. I have a good job and they're good to me. When this TV invitation came up they even let me take my vacation a month early," Gardner said gratefully.

Lost Track of Family

Gardner had lost track of his youngest three sisters over the years because the orphanage at which they had stayed would not divulge their whereabouts. Gardner finally gave up trying to find out where they lived.

He did know, however, where his brother and his other three sisters were. One of his sisters came out to visit him last year. She was the only one of his brothers and sisters whom Gardner had actually seen again

after they were orphaned, until this year's reunion.

The reunion was a complete surprise to one of the sisters, Mrs. Pete (Helen) Churitch of Chicago, Illinois. Starred on "Welcome Travelers," she appeared with the understanding that she was only to tell her own life story as a nurse.

The roster of family names now reads as follows: Mrs. Virgil (Ethyl) Trotter, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, housewife, mother of two; John H. Gardner, Torrance; Herman E. Gardner, Jackson, Mississippi, lost the lower part of his left arm during the war, now is discharge clerk with VA, married, two children; Mrs. Pete (Helen) Churitch, Chicago, Illinois, three children, formerly nurse; Mrs. Ruby Hurly, Forest Park, Illinois, receptionist, one son; Mrs. Mary (Betty) Jacobs, Oregon, Illinois; Mrs. Gene (Betty) Abeln, St. Louis, Missouri, two children; Mrs. Bill (Glady's) Seggerson, Lombard, Illinois.

In looking back, Gardner is proud and grateful at the way life has been good to him and his brothers and sisters.

Guiding Influence

Asked what guided him through his early years, he said, "I've always felt that there is a right and a wrong way, and when we do the wrong things, we feel sorry. You have to live cleanly and honestly, and if that isn't the case, you can learn to, and if it is the case, you can protect it."

"I know I was an orphan. I've always felt the loss. There's nothing like family ties," he concluded wistfully.

But apparently his sister, Helen, summed up everyone's feelings and their present happiness when she said,

"Isn't it surprising that there is so much affection between all of us after 20 years?"

nine months and can truthfully say that the wells close by have never been pumping oil," another letter signed by three families stated.

On the opposite side were two petitions carrying combined total of 35 signatures.

They called for a "workable agreement" between the city, the residents, and the oilmen.

"We purchased property in the oil field for many reasons. Among them for acreage and the right of raising poultry ... If ... the oilmen are forced out of business, our privileges will also go ... If we, as residents, and the oilmen concerned can agree, who then has to be satisfied?"

The other petition, signed by a number of oilmen, stated, "We CANNOT continue operation if the proposed ordinance is passed."

It was pointed out that the oilmen spend thousands of dollars annually on safety precautions and taxes to the city.

BONDS ...
(Continued from Page 1)

ary schools and two high schools in operation by 1955-56, housing over 15,000 students.

Previous Bond Issues
This program, which started in 1947, was supported as follows:

Four bonds issues: 1947, \$1,504,000; 1950, \$2,000,000; 1952, \$3,000,000. 1954, \$3,000,000.

Plus \$1,500,000 Federal funds; \$500,000 operating budget. Total \$11,504,000.

20 MORE SCHOOLS
The proposed \$10 million bond issue would provide Torrance with the following: 18 more elementary schools, and one or possibly two high schools.

The Torrance school district now has a student enrollment of 15,000. Another 15,000 students are expected by 1960.

The proposed bond issue has been endorsed by the Torrance Board of Education, Torrance Industries Tax Committee, Torrance Educational Advisory committee, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Torrance Herald, Torrance Council of Parents and Teachers, Torrance City Council, General Petroleum and the Torrance Press.

BRICK PIT ...
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reconsideration of the matter when a number of protests were raised.

Jack E. White, vice-president of the North Torrance Civic association, declared that property values would go down if the brick pit were permitted to continue its operations.

Twelve cities in this area banned such operations, he said, and urged that Torrance do likewise.

A number of letters were read from residents protesting additional digging in the pits.

The Torrance Board of Education also went on record opposing the expansion of the digging operations because an elementary school is to be built nearby.

GRAVEL FIRM ...

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quest and not the Torrance Sand and Gravel firm which is simply leasing the land, Anderson said.

A number of petitions bearing numerous signatures for and against the proposed operation were received.

Anderson claimed that it was presumptuous of the firm to have laid the foundation for the hopper already without awaiting final approval of the operation, even though the present hopper would only be used for a sand storage place.

Demands

His clients will not be satisfied unless the proposed hopper is either denied or placed out of sight so it will not be visible from Pacific Coast highway, Anderson said.

He claimed that the company on repeated occasions in the past has not kept faith with certain conditions which were imposed unless pressure was brought to bear on it.

Mayor Albert Isen, while not indicating his feelings for or against the matter at this time, stated that the original variance to operate the firm granted in 1948 carried no formal conditions.

The city is thus in a position where the city cannot legally remedy some of the problems created by the firm.

Agreement Cited
Mrs. Bessie Slonecker of the Walteria Civic association, as well as William Cameron, remarked that the firm did agree at that time to shield all its operations and to keep them on

the other side of the hill. This agreement was made conditional to the granting of the original variance, they stated.

"You will strangle the firm's operation," Mr. McLaughlin, attorney for Sand and Gravel, told the council, "if you restrict the company from operating the way others operate. There is no justifiable reason to prohibit it."

Anderson pointed out that the presence of the cement mixing plant will lower the value of the residential property and be a menace to the health, welfare, and safety of the residents, thus working a hardship on the residents.

A meeting of the residents on Winlock and those interested in opposing the proposal of the Sand and Gravel firm will be held this coming Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. at the home of Lee O'Mally, 2942 Winlock, according to William Cameron.

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